

Her work was first exhibited in 1916 at the avant-garde gallery, 291, of Alfred Stieglitz. Initially, the famous gallery included only ten of Georgia O'Keeffe's charcoal abstractions, but within a year the gallery stopped showing any other artists and was devoted to exhibiting all of O'Keeffe's works. Not long after Georgia O'Keeffe moved to New York, she and Alfred Stieglitz fell in love and then married in 1924.

Georgia O'Keeffe wanted her art to express as she said "the wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it." Today, everyone can instantly recognize the paintings with intensely colorful large-scale flowers, sun-bleached animal bones, and the dramatic landscapes of the Southwest as Sun Prairie's own Georgia O'Keeffe. She became the most famous American woman artist and an influential modernist, receiving many awards, including medals from two U.S. presidents and ten honorary doctorates.

As a historical marker is dedicated on the spot where Georgia O'Keeffe spent her formative years, I join Sun Prairie in its celebration of the life and contributions of the pioneering artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

INTRODUCTION OF READICALL NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill that will greatly improve the federal government's ability to communicate with our citizens when there is a terrorist attack or other serious emergency at the national, regional or local levels.

My bill will require the Department of Homeland Security to set up an emergency alert system which can contact virtually every telephone subscriber in the United States within minutes, to convey to them vital information about what's happening and what they should do.

Up until now, we have been somewhat less targeted in our approach to emergency warning systems, because we have relied on the mass media.

Until now, we have used 20th century technology—television, radio, cable TV—to communicate with our people in times of emergency. It works fine if you are near a TV. But if the electricity goes out, most TVs and radios don't work.

I don't want to eliminate the existing early warning system; I want to improve it and build on it.

What I propose to do is establish a national emergency communications system based on 19th century technology, the telephone, which virtually every American has nearby, both at home and at work, and which usually works even when the lights go out.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, roughly 104 million households out of 109 million have landline telephone service—over 95%. Another roughly 1.2 million have only wireless telephone services. Further, nearly every business in the United States has phone service and almost 141 million of us have cellular phones. There are few options for dissemination of information better

than our telephone system, which is widely considered the best in the entire world.

The system I am proposing would make it possible for the government to let people know of imminent threats, transmit official warnings, provide accurate information about an attack and also provide instructions to people in the affected areas.

The system I propose today has an additional advantage over the present emergency warning system, because it could be activated at the block, neighborhood, city, county, state or national levels, as needed.

I would envision perhaps a special ring on the phone, so people would know that an alert call is not an ordinary call. Cell phones could be included in the system.

The system would be activated by order of the Secretary of Homeland Security, so there would be accountability in its use.

And once a message is approved, it could go out in a very short period of time, by live operators or by taped message. Because the system I propose is based on technology and techniques that have already been perfected by the teleservices industry.

I want to harness this technology to improve our homeland security.

Emergency information is critical to all of us. When an emergency situation happens, you want to know who is in charge; who can, and will, give you accurate, reliable information; and what you should do, if anything, to protect yourself.

Officials from local, county, state, federal and volunteer agencies work together during emergency situations. That means information may be available from a number of sources—different people know about different parts of the response effort.

Protecting the health and safety of our fellow Americans is the primary goal of everyone working on the situation. Part of that effort focuses on giving you accurate, coordinated information about the emergency and what you should do to protect yourself.

The existing National Emergency Alert System was set up several decades ago to allow for public notification of emergency situations. The system was designed to provide immediate access to the public for the President in times of crisis. The U.S. leadership requires a reliable means for communicating with the American public on short notice during periods of national crisis or major emergency to provide reassurance and direction regarding response and recovery.

But the EAS system was developed to provide the ability to address the Nation on AM and FM radio, as well as television and cable television audio. In addition, the President or other official must be able to address the Nation on live television, audio and video, upon arrival at a designated television studio.

Today, emergency officials rely on mass media because they have the technology, communications equipment, trained staff, proven ability and commitment to get information to the public in an emergency. Indeed, television reaches 98% of the homes in the United States of America. But, that is part of the problem that this bill hopes to fix. Television reaches 98% of the HOMES in the U.S. If we were all sitting at home, with our televisions on, tuned to a channel with a direct link to the Department of Homeland Security, we could all feel secure that we would know what to do in the event of another horrible tragedy like the 9/11 attacks.

This bill seeks to develop and implement an emergency telephone alert system so that, in the event of a terrorist attack, all telephone subscribers within the affected areas or, if need be, within the entire United States, can receive from the Department of Homeland Security immediate official warnings, accurate information, notifications of an attack and instructions on what to do.

The technology currently exists that would allow the Department of Homeland Security to notify every telephone subscriber in the United States within a few hours or states, cities or communities within minutes, giving potentially life-saving information to our citizens.

The Secretary would collaborate with other government agencies and with the private sector to use existing telephone technology and infrastructure to relay official information to all telephone subscribers within an endangered area within the United States—ideally with a distinct ring so that the receiver of the call will instantly be aware of its nature and importance.

The aim of this legislation is to keep our citizens informed in the terrible event that there is a national, regional or local terrorist emergency and present sources of communication are not simply available. Minutes can make a huge difference in an attack or disaster; accurate information pin-pointed to the affected area can make all the difference.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF LEN SMITH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when crime concerns are on every citizen's mind, those who have dedicated their lives to law enforcement are to be commended. I would like to make a special commendation to Chief Len Smith, a devoted law enforcement officer from Indiana's First Congressional District. Chief Smith will be retiring on June 1, 2003, after having served the people of Porter for 34 years. Chief Smith will be honored by his family, friends, and members of the Porter Police Department at an open house on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at the Porter Community Building.

Len Smith, a native of Porter County and a resident of the Town of Porter for 42 years, has always been a man of compassion. He began his adult life by serving in the United States Army from 1966–1968. Upon his return to Northwest Indiana, Chief Smith thought that he would be a school teacher, having degrees in both biology and anthropology. He began police work because it afforded him the opportunity to work afternoons and midnights, allowing him to spend quality time with his family.

Smith's distinguished career in law enforcement has made his community and nation a better place in which to live and work. His outstanding motivational skills and unmatched charisma helped mold him into a natural leader. For more than 34 years, Len Smith has worked for the Porter Police Department and he has served as the town's police chief from 1974 to 1993 and from 1996 to the present. In 1993, when a former Town Council appointed a new chief from outside the town, over 200 people packed the Porter municipal building to

support Smith. The next Town Council immediately reinstated the popular Smith.

During his tenure with the Department, Chief Smith has demonstrated a sincere love for the community in which he lives. While on the force, Smith was presented with the American Legion Life Saving Award for saving two men from drowning. While Chief Smith has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work with the Porter Police Department and protecting the lives of others, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife Diana have two children, Todd and Molly.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Smith. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made to the law enforcement community and the First Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Chief Smith for his lifetime of service and dedication to the people of Northwest Indiana and the citizens of the United States. He worked hard to make the Town of Porter a safer place in which to live and work. I sincerely wish him a long, happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CAS CARES, INC.

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company headquartered in my hometown of Huntsville, Alabama which is presenting a \$20,000 check to Huntsville's Community Free Clinic to help the Clinic sustain its free prescription drug program. This donation is not only significant because of the help it will provide Huntsville residents who cannot afford prescription drugs, but it also marks the \$1 million milestone for the company's charitable grants.

The employees of CAS and its leaders, Bill Stender and Fred Clark, are to be commended, Mr. Speaker, for this great accomplishment. In 1991, the CAS employees and management organized a non-profit entity called CAS Cares, Inc. in order to promote volunteer activities and provide funding to local charities in our North Alabama community as well as the Texas and Virginia communities that are home to CAS branch offices.

In the Huntsville community alone, CAS Cares has given grants to over 60 charitable agencies in the past twelve years. Over 85% of all CAS, Inc. employees donate to the CAS Cares program. In February, a committee of CAS employees reviewed the grant applications for 2003, which will result in over \$130,000 in assistance for charities this year alone.

Mr. Speaker, I believe CAS, Inc. serves as an example to businesses across the nation, and I am pleased that Huntsville is home to such an outstanding corporate citizen. I send my sincere congratulations to the management team and employees at CAS, Inc. for their \$1 million milestone today that continues to make a difference in the lives of many North Alabama residents.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ANDREW D. LA MONT, USMC, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ 19 MAY 2003

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Andrew D. La Mont, USMC, who was killed in action in Iraq, 19 May 2003. Captain La Mont, a 32-year-old resident of Humboldt County, California, answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

Captain La Mont served as a pilot with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Air Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. His CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter was on a resupply mission in central Iraq when it crashed into the Shatt Al Hallah River. All four crewmembers perished, as well as a Marine Sgt. who drowned trying to rescue the crewmembers.

Captain La Mont was born at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, DC, and moved to Humboldt County when he was 2 years old. He loved his country and chose to serve in the Marines Corps. He entered the Marines as an officer following graduation from San Diego State University, ROTC program. He served in Desert Storm and is a hero to his family and to the nation. He had a special influence on the life of his nephew, Sgt. Christopher La Mont, who is also serving in Iraq.

Captain La Mont is one of nine children born to Lt. Col. (Ret.) James and Mrs. Vivian La Mont. Lt. Col. James La Mont was a career officer in the United States Air Force.

Captain Andrew D. La Mont's tragic death reminds us that however just the cause, war brings tragedy to many families and that any casualty is one too many. He died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his family in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Captain Andrew D. La Mont, USMC, who gave his life in service to his country.

HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the newly renamed Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center has long been a Battle Creek landmark. Under many names, from the Sanitarium to Percy Jones, to the Federal Center to the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, it will continue as a historic site serving the community and the nation.

Ever since its opening as a nationally renowned health center started by John Harvey Kellogg, brother of cereal pioneer W.K. Kellogg, the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center has proudly served the State of Michigan and the United States. Purchased by the U.S. Army in 1942 the Sanitarium became the Percy Jones Army Hospital. The hospital, specializing in

neurosurgery and the fitting of artificial limbs, treated over 100,000 WWII and Korean war veterans. The many veterans served here include the late Senator Hart, Senator Bob Dole, and Senator Inouye.

Today, the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center provides vital support to our nation's war fighters as part of the Department of Defense. The Center serves as the premier facility for the cataloging of 6.5 million supply items needed by the U.S. military as well as the re-utilization and disposition of those items upon their federal obsolescence.

As a nation we can be rightly proud of the work done here by the highly trained and award-winning workforce who serve within these historic walls. I am honored to have such a facility in my district and look forward to another 100 years of history being made.

"CODE ADAM" CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the father of three young children, I know the feeling of horror that a parent can face when you are out shopping with your kids and you turn around, only to realize your child has disappeared. In most cases, you find them in a matter of moments. They could have been distracted and wandered off or even may have been hiding in the racks of clothing.

However, what if the unthinkable happens? What if they can't find them? What option does a parent have?

Code Adam is a special alert issued through a store's public address system when a customer reports a missing child. Code Adam, which was created by Wal-Mart, is a special alert issued through a store's public address system when a customer reports a missing child. A brief description of the child is obtained and provided to all designated employees who immediately stop their normal work to search for the child, and monitor all exits to help prevent the child from leaving the store. If the child is not found within 10 minutes of initiating a storewide search, or if the child is seen accompanied by someone other than a parent or guardian, store personnel contact the local police department and request assistance.

The Code Adam measure was established by Wal-Mart and Sam's Clubs and named in memory of six-year-old Adam Walsh, whose abduction and murder in 1981 brought the horror of child abduction to national attention. Since the program went nationwide in 1994, it has been a powerful preventative tool against child abductions and lost children in more than 40,000 stores and public buildings making it the largest child safety program in the nation.

Over the past year, child abduction has once again been brought to the forefront of public attention. It is critical that retailers and parents alike remain engaged and committed to protecting our children.

I am encouraged by new survey results released this week by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and ADVO, Inc., which showed more parents are